

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 7746

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ID

SUBJECT: INDONESIAN REQUEST FOR LSTS

REF: STATE 121193

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 3 REFTEL, I TOOK OCCASION AT JUNE 25 HAIL/ FAREWELL PARTY FOR ADMIRALS SUBONO AND SUDOMO TO RAISE WITH HANKAM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENTAL STAFF MAJGEN HASNAN HABIB QUESTION OF POSSIBLE SALE OF DEMILITARIZED LSTS, USING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PARA 2 REFTEL. I ASKED HASNAN IF HE WISHED US TO PROCEED WITH FURTHER INQUIRIES, SPECIFICALLY IF HE WISHED DLG TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH ABRI WORKING LEVELS. WE AGREED HASNAN WOULD THINK IT OVER AND LET US KNOW (TO DATE WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING FUTHER).

2. THE FOLLOWING IS OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED LSTS AS REQUESTED IN PARA 3 REFTEL:

A. DLG RECORDS AND INFORMATION INDICATE EIGHT LSTS PROVIDED BY US AS FOLLOWS: 3 IN 1960, 3 IN 1961, AND 2 IN 1970. OF THESE THE EX- LST 1090 RECEIVED IN 1960 WAS GROUNDED NEAR BALI SOME YEARS AGO AND STRICKEN FROM SERVICE. THE REMAINING SEVEN AS WELL AS TWO U. S. ORIGIN PURCHASED FROM MEXICO AND

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ONE JAPANESE BUILT LST ARE PRESENTLY IN NAVAL SERVICE. THEY ARE EFFECTIVELY EMPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF THE INDONESIAN TRANSMIGRATION PROGRAM AS WELL AS INTER- ISLAND TRANSPORT OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CARGO. THE LSTS UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE THE HEAVIEST OPERATIONAL COMMITMENT OF THE INDONESIAN NAVY AND THUS ARE THE MOST EFFICIENTLY UTILIZED.

B. DURING A MAY MEETING WITH SUDOMO, LATTER EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LSTS TO THE INDONESIAN NAVY AND INDICATED HIS COMING ADVANCEMENT TO HIS NEW POST AS DEPUTY COMMANDER, KOPKAMTIB, COULD AT LEAST IN PART BE ATTRIBUTED TO HIS SUCCESS IN BEING ABLE TO REACT TO THE GOVERNMENT' S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS WITH THE LSTS. RECENT EMPHASIS PLACED ON OVERHAUL AND MAINTENANCE OF THE LSTS UTILIZING BOTH MAP AND RUPIAH FUNDS IS ALSO A GOOD INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE SHIPS TO THE NAVY. (SURPRISINGLY, WHEN ASKED IF INDONESIAN NAVY INTENDED TO REQUEST MORE LSTS, SUDOMO REPLIED THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME THEIR FLEET OF LSTS WAS ADEQUATE TO MEET THEIR NEEDS, AND THE SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL LSTS WOULD BE A PROBLEM AT THIS TIME.)

C. WITH THE AVAILABLE 542 CLASS LSTS IN ONLY FAIR (QUESTIONABLE) CONDITION IT WOULD SEEM REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT A SIZABLE EXPENDITURE FOR SHIP OVERHAUL PRIOR TO HOMEWARD VOYAGE WOULD BE REQUIRED IN ADDITION TO THE \$75,000 PURCHASE PRICE. I AM NOT CERTAIN THE GOI IS PREPARED TO FUND THESE EXPENSES. THE UTILIZATION OF MAP FUNDS TO COVER SHIP PURCHASE ASSOCIATED EXPENSES WOULD REQUIRE MAJOR REALIGNMENT OF MAP PROGRAM PRIORITIES. FROM ALL INDICATIONS TO DATE THE ACQUISITION OF CLAUD JONES CLASS DES IS FIRST PRIORITY IN THE ACQUISITION OF MAP EQUIPMENT.

3. SENIOR INDONESIAN MILITARY INQUIRE FREQUENTLY AS TO POSSIBLE OFFER FOR SALE OF THE THREE
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REMAINING CLAUD JONES CLASS DES AND HASNAN HABIB REPEATED THIS INQUIRY WHEN I MENTIONED LSTS. WE HAVE STEAFASTLY REPLIED THAT THERE ARE NONE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE AND THAT WHEN THERE ARE WE WILL INFORM GOI AND GIVE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION TO THEIR NEEDS. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS

MATTER.
GALBRAITH

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